



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Kevin Johns, Director
Economic Development Department

DATE: September 21, 2015

SUBJECT: *Austin Creates! Month*

The Economic Development Department (EDD) and Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) are partnering throughout the month of October to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month, known locally as “Austin Creates!” Month. This month-long recognition serves to highlight Austin’s thriving creative community and the benefit that arts and culture brings to Austin’s quality of life and economy.

National Arts and Humanities Month, the largest annual celebration for the arts and humanities in the nation, is designed to recognize the importance of culture in America and encourage all citizens to actively participate in the arts. Locally, the month of October will be host to numerous activities presented by, or in partnership with, the EDD’s Cultural Arts Division and PAR’s Museums and Cultural Programs Division.

Planned activities during October include:

- Partners in the Arts community awards presentation and reception
- Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit “I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story” at the Asian American Resource Center
- “Building Austin’s Creative Capacity” Public Presentation of Needs Assessment Results
- Dia de Los Muertos Celebration at Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
- Polkapocalypse Festival at Elisabet Ney Museum
- Art After Six at the People’s Gallery
- Children’s author Don Tate’s “Freedom Tour” at the George Washington Carver Museum
- Temporary Art Installations around the city from the TEMPO Program
- 30th Anniversary Celebration for Austin Art in Public Places

You are cordially invited to participate in a press event to announce Austin Creates! Month on Thursday, October 1, 9:30 a.m. at Austin City Hall.

If you are available to speak at this time, please notify Lani Gonzalez in the Cultural Arts Division at 512-974-7875 or via email at lanigonzalez@austintexas.gov.

xc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Assistant Director, EDD